

Supreme Court

In re Relaxation of Rules for Admission *Pro* :
Hac Vice and for Admission to Practice of :
Law for Lawyers Displaced by Hurricane :
Katrina. :

ORDER

In recognition of the devastation and disruption of daily life suffered by the residents of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama as a result of Hurricane Katrina, this Court, in order to assist the lawyers admitted to practice in those states who have been displaced by said hurricane, hereby modifies the rules for admission *pro hac vice* and for admission to the practice of law in this State.

For lawyers admitted to practice law in the States of Louisiana, Mississippi, and/or Alabama who have been displaced by Hurricane Katrina, who are persons of good character and fitness to practice law, and who are in good standing in the jurisdictions in which they are admitted, we hereby waive the fee required for the filing of *pro hac vice* petitions in Rhode Island. Moreover, we waive the requirement that a petition or motion for admission *pro hac vice* be filed in each matter in which the lawyer participates. Instead, affected lawyers may file with this Court a single petition for admission *pro hac vice*, which contains the information required for such petitions by Article II, Rule 9(a) of the Supreme Court Rules, seeking to be admitted *pro hac vice* for a period of time not to exceed nine (9) months from the date of this Order. If the application is granted, the lawyer may participate *pro hac vice* in multiple matters during that period of time, provided that a member of the Rhode Island Bar who practices law out of an office located in this state is associated as attorney of record.

Further, as to such displaced lawyers, we extend the application period for taking the February 2006 Rhode Island Bar Examination to December 15, 2005, and we waive all applicable application fees. Finally, the Court encourages members of the Rhode Island Bar to offer such assistance as is feasible to these displaced lawyers, including where possible the use of office space and other services, as they attempt to resume their normal and professional activities. We assure members of our Bar as well as the displaced lawyers that it shall not be regarded as the unauthorized practice of law for members of the Bar to assist displaced lawyers in this manner or for displaced lawyers to handle their client base from this state.

Entered as an Order of this Court this *17th* day of *October 2005*.

s/s

WILLIAMS, C. J.

s/s

GOLDBERG, J.

s/s

FLAHERTY, J.

s/s

SUTTELL, J.

s/s

ROBINSON, J.